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## *2019 MADA AGM*

Nov. 14/19

*Margaree Meeting Place*

7 pm

**In attendance:** Alex Breckenridge, Sharon Burchell, Anita Coady, Oisin Curran, Janet Gillis, Bernadette MacLeod, Bruce Miller, Del Muise, Brian Peters, Maria Coady-Peters, Eddie Phillips, Kay Robertson, Eileen Coady, Wayne Robicheau  
Laurie Cranton, Inverness County Councilor was in attendance.  
Secretary John Stinson took minutes

**Regrets:** Mary MacNeil

Chair Eileen Coady **called meeting to order** at 7:05 PM welcoming all to the meeting being held on unceded Unama'ki territory.

Anita Moved that **agenda**, as circulated, be accepted with power to add. Seconded by Sharon  
**MC**

The **minutes of the last AGM**, (held on Nov. 15/18 at the Drs. Coady-Tompkins Library), having been circulated by e-mail with some copies being available at the meeting, it was moved by John, seconded by Bernadette, that these minutes be approved.  
**MC**

Eileen suggested that, since most of issues in the 2018 AGM minutes were addressed in the 2019 agenda, she would dispense with Business Arising and proceed with agenda.

**Treasurers Report:** (attached at end). Our year-end is actually the end of December but rather than give the report from Dec. 2018, Janet reviewed financials up to the end of October for both MADA and for the VIC. She informed us that some monies would still be coming in from grants.

All questions being answered, she moved her report be accepted as presented. Seconded by Eddie.  
**MC**

Brian commented that he felt a great number of improvements had been made to the property and members present were pleased that our deficit, presently, is very small.

Eileen then presented the chairperson's report.

### *President's Report to the AGM - November 14, 2019.*

*First of all, I want to acknowledge the fact that our meeting is being hosted here at Margaree Meeting Place for the first time. This space was in the process of being renovated in November 2018 and was the result of a Community Facility Improvement Grant that was undertaken by the MADA Board - under Maria Coady as President. Thanks to Maria for her efforts throughout the funding process and for her vision in seeing it through!*

Since the start of 2019, we have readied the space for use - with donations and support from various individuals and the Municipality - and we are very pleased with the opportunities it allows us for meeting space - for MADA and for the community generally.

Throughout the tourist season, the space housed the Visitor Information Centre but also was used for a significant number of small meetings and gatherings, a birthday party, the Terry Fox Walk registration, and a storytelling session during Celtic Colours. Presently we are offering a 5 week course every Wednesday through the Dept. of Labour and Advanced Education and tonight our AGM. Rentals are available so if you are interested, let us know.

MADA has had a busy year throughout 2019 and as it was my first year in the role of MADA President, there were many times when I seemed to be on a huge learning curve. However, thanks to the support of Board members, I feel we had a good year and are holding our own - but life is never dull and there have been a lot of ups and downs !

Two important projects that the MADA Board was involved in during 2019 were the report of the CBU Research Project in Margaree and our involvement in the Ad Hoc Committee to Fight the Closure of the Credit Union in Margaree. Because they are significant, I have asked Maria and Bernadette to speak briefly on these as separate reports.

**Library Responsibility** - Last January, we had opportunity to host the new CAO for Inverness County, Keith MacDonald as he made a tour of facilities around the area. We introduced him to our new meeting space but also made him aware of some of the challenges we face in maintaining the day to day operation of the Library building. From there, MADA made arrangements to speak to Municipal Council in their budget deliberations - and Maria, Bernadette and I made a presentation in Port Hood, in February, outlining our issues and concerns as a development association and in particular, the importance of the responsibility of the county to support the Library here. As in previous years, we had forwarded MADA costs for the Library for the 2018 year and in early June we received the full amount of \$8000. owed to us. This proved to be a significant improvement from previous years when the amount came in two portions; we are hopeful that the county will continue to recognize their annual commitment and that our working relationship is on a solid footing going forward.

**Building and Property Issues** - As you might remember, we had a very early start to winter last year and then some considerable rain in early December. Because of serious flooding concerns in the basement of the Library building, installed a French drain running from the north side of the building through the backfield and our drainage issues have drastically improved. In addition, we put in an air exchange system and rain gutters, which have also helped with basement issues. Although we did have some problem with frozen & burst pipes in February, we made it through; we replaced the sump pump in the basement in March and over the last year have cleared out space in the basement with improved storage room for both MADA and the Library.

But if rain, floods, ice and cold weren't enough - then came the hurricane winds! This September we had significant damage to the north side of the Library grounds near the gazebo as a result of Hurricane Dorian. A number of very tall poplar trees came down due to the strong winds and while we were fortunate that no damage was done to our Library building, the grounds and the old rock wall were considerably upended. Fortunately, because the road to the fishing pools was blocked by the fallen trees, we had the valuable help of the MSA work crew who did an amazing job of removing the trees and putting the property back in a reasonable appearance within a few days of the storm. Since then, we have had the remaining poplars cut down near the driveway to avoid further worry about wind damage. As well, we intend to have the stumps removed completely and the ground cleaned up further. Indeed, if the weather holds, this is scheduled to be done this month. As for the rock wall, we will consider our options in the Spring as temperatures now don't allow for work to be considered. MADA is undecided as to what we'll do with the wall but we know that it's been around for 80 years - and we'd like to try to fix it if the cost is not prohibitive.

**Summer Programming** - In addition to supporting the location of the VIC, MADA applied for a Canada Summer Works student grant and we were pleased to hire Maesey Phillips for a second Summer. She worked as a grounds keeper; as well she assisted with a number of our activities including Canada Day and Anything that Floats. Both of these Summer events were successful, assisted by grant funding and in the case of the Canada Day weekend, with considerable financial

support from Adrian Coady. This year an Ashley Macisaac concert and a writers' workshop were part of the weekend. In the case of the ATF event, Lee Fraser and his team of volunteers have increased the interest and participation of those who take to the river at Tanner's Run. There seem to be some thoughts toward developing our Summer 2020 programming further - and this is for discussion in the New Year.

Advocacy - At various times during the year, MADA has written letters of concern on issues that make a difference to our communities - advocating in regard to the delayed construction of the Cranton Bridge, the dangerous road conditions on the Middle River section of the Cabot Trail, the value of the Viewscapes project along county highways, support for the ER at Inverness Hospital, internet and cellphone connectivity and of course, the Credit Union fight. Did we make a difference? We feel it was important to voice concern - and to do nothing was not an alternative.

As for plans for the coming year, we are presently in partnership on what we hope will be an exciting project with the Municipality - one that we were made aware of in June and have been working on since. I will speak on this as we progress through the agenda.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Coady

Eileen then asked Maria to speak to the CBU/MADA Partnership

### ***Shaping Margaree's Future A MADA/CBU Research Project-2018.***

In 2018 MADA entered into a collaborative research project with the Shannon School of Business, Cape Breton University. In February and again in April 2018 MADA hosted a public meeting in the Margaree Community to identify areas of research that would be conducted by MBA students and guided by the community. The overall goal will be to provide a foundation and some direction for future community economic development in the Margaree's.

Six research subjects were identified by priority;

- A Margaree Advantage
- Sharing experiences
- Facilitating Locating in Margaree
- A toolbox for entrepreneurs
- Finding New Businesses
- Workforce

Over the course of 2018 and into 2019 MADA and small group of key informants (Liaison committee) guided the work of the students principally through Dr. Jackie Scott, Project advisor for CBU. Many of the CBU, MBA students visited Margaree and consulted with various stakeholders. In April 2019 a third public meeting was held to share the findings of the research project ;Re-Imaging the Future of the Margaree's. The six subject areas of research translated into three main directions for the community to consider;

- Margaree Advantage
- Childcare Feasibility study
- Entrepreneurial Tool Kit

The document Re-imagining the future of the Margaree's can be found [on this-is-margaree.com](http://this-is-margaree.com) website and a hard copy is in the Coady Tompkins Library. The Childcare feasibility report awaits a champion to move forward.

Many Thanks to our Municipal leader Laurie Cranton for securing funds to facilitate the process of hosting research students when in Margaree.  
Many Thanks to all residents of the Margaree's who participated.

**Ad hoc Committee re: Credit union closure:** Eileen asked Bernadette to report on this committee, composed of members of MADA, the Co Op, Councilor Laurie Cranton and other concerned community members and Bernadette did with some detail. As members will recall, this started with a letter send to members of the E. Margaree branch on May 1/19 informing them that the branch would close on July 26.

Several meetings have been held, not only by committee but also with the BOD of East Coast Credit union. To date, not a lot of success however Brian commented that there was upcoming meetings with a couple of other credit unions that might be interested in having a Margaree presence.

Laurie was asked to thank the county for financial support they had given to this committee for mailing and other initiatives.

Eileen then gave the following report: *Infrastructure Improvements Report*

#### ***TRIP Funding***

- *In June MADA was approached by Melanie Beaton, Special Projects Facilitator with the Municipality of the County of Inverness to discuss Nova Scotia Tourism Revitalization of Icons Program (TRIP) regarding funding to construct public access washrooms in at least two locations along the Cabot Trail: Margaree Forks and Pleasant Bay. This funding identified several key areas within the province that warrant revitalization including the Cabot Trail.*
- *The plan - to construct washroom facilities that will be sustainable over the long term. They are prioritizing construction in areas that will eventually grow into enhanced facilities in that location.*
- *We will benefit from the construction of a two washroom structure with a new septic system to which our existing building can be connected.*
- *Partners include the Federal, Provincial and Municipal governments, Strum (Engineering) Consultants, and Aymes Mustard of CB West Contracting.*
- *In September MADA entered into agreement with the Municipality on the project to build the washroom/ comfort station building.*
- *The location of the new facility has been determined in consultation with members of the MADA board and the Municipal representatives and will be along the south side of the property (back to the tree line, open to the grounds) just behind the MMP side of the building.*
- *We will be able to utilize the driveway and enhance the parking area in back of the building.*
- *The facility will have power and hot/cold water. It will be equipped with a skylight, air hand dryers, low flow toilets, auto shut off water in sinks, baby change stations and will be gender neutral. The doors will be on a planned, timed locking system with an interior opening mechanism so as to assure that no one will be locked inside after the doors have been locked for the night. The washrooms will be open daily for a set number of hours for approximately six months of the year.*
- *Site plans and septic plans have received required approval at the provincial level. We anticipate that the concrete slab will soon be poured and construction will follow.*
- *It is anticipated that the washrooms will be open to the public in the spring of 2020.*
- *The daily maintenance agreement will likely be contracted to a local individual or company - with some on-site supervision by MADA.*
- *Conrad Taves has been approached by Melanie to provide an estimate for a conceptual drawing site plan for our property that would include any additions or changes we hope to make to enhance our property - in particular, our stage area which is in major need of repair. We are hopeful that the site plan will help us access that funding*

***Branding, Signage and Streetscaping*** funding for the Margarees, part of a much-larger ACOA funded project for northern Inverness County, has been approved. We anticipate working with other community partners - MSA, the Museum, Heritage River Society - and the Municipality, in relation to way-faring signage starting in January 2020.

Some discussion but generally those directors involved felt the County under the direction of the new exec director, along with Melanie Beaton and Karolyn Aucoin were going in the right direction and positive things seemed to be happening.

**This is Margaree Website report**, by Bruce Miller who maintains this platform. Some discussion ensued on the margareens.com site, coming up in searches and concerns that it was dated.

VIC Report: Mary was unable to attend but sent a report:

*We opened June 17, saw a total of 8313 visitors until closing on October 18. Two summer students, along with our MADA student, kept the VIC, the website and social media presence, and the grounds exceptional all season. Many thanks to go Angie Carroll who filled in when the students were no longer with us. Returning visitors commented on the welcome changes to the VIC and many enjoyed the new signage...the kiosk and the two other signs which were installed on the grounds this season. I apologize for my absence, my mother has been admitted to the hospital and we have our two little girls plus Charlotte and Ava, so this meeting was not possible. Thanks to John and Janet of the VIC committee for all of your unwavering support.*  
*Mary*

All seemed very happy with the VIC presence and Mary was particularly thanked for the assistance she and students had given to other programs that took place over the summer.

**Lake O Law Lifestyles trail:** John reported that a grant for \$875 had been received from Community Health Board and a sign and supports had been produced. He particularly thanked MSA and their coordinator, Brittany Polley for her help. At this point \$800 has been spent and the sign should go up in the spring, hopefully installed by the MSA Stream Crew.

**Celtic Colours**, as reported previously, was cancelled due to a power outage that night. John informed board that C. C. office had contacted us and we are hoping some monies will come through insurance; at least enough to cover our expenses.

Eileen then gave a report on the **Communities in Bloom** committee, the **Winter Wellness program** held last winter and the **Adult Ed courses**, held last winter and the one just started a couple weeks ago.

#### ***Winter Wellness Program - CHB Grant - Winter 2019***

- *MADA applied for and received a 2019 Wellness Grant of \$825, from the Central Inverness Community Health Board and ran a 6 week program at the library beginning in early February for six Fridays, ending in late March. This was our third year of the program.*
- *The goal of the program was to provide wellness information, social connection and nutrition during months when social isolation is a concern. The program was aimed at women who might be interested - with a focus on all seniors and also those who are seasonally employed.*
- *We had approx. 12 to 14 women attending most weeks, many returning week to week; our program on Wills and Estate Planning had an audience of about 30.*
- *In lieu of rent to the library for use of the space we made a donation - that money was used to purchase two insulated coffee/ tea holders/ servers, now in use at the library.*
- *There are no plans for a Winter program for 2020.*

*Members of the organizing committee: Mary MacNeil, Kim Tilsley, Angie Carroll and Joan Ingram.*

### ***Communities in Bloom***

*Communities in Bloom is a national program for gardening/ beautification. The Municipality has access to CIB funds and MADA has participated in a grant through the Municipality for the fourth year now.*

- Daffodil and tulip bulbs were planted in Fall 2018 and we had Spring blooms in flower beds in Margaree Hbr, Lake o'Law, Cranton Crossroads, Margaree Forks and SW Margaree.*
- Annuals were planted in late June in pots at about 14 locations throughout the Margarees including area post offices, library, fire hall, church halls, etc. Weather this Summer (very hot) and the strong winds of September played havoc with some of our flowers but overall, we had good success. Volunteers are always welcome to help us with watering in the Summer.*
- These locations were mowed as needed throughout the Summer and Fall: former Irving station at the Forks, Lifestyles Trail entrance and Freddie's Lookoff .*
- Most recently, a load of gravel was purchased for the newer Lookoff at Margaree Crossroads.*
- Several incidents of vandalism at the two Lookoffs - flowers, planters and recently a bench was stolen - have been very disappointing. Hoping the community can be watchful - and these have been our only incidents until this year!*

*Thanks to members of the committee: Freddie Burns, Annie Wall, Ruth Watts, Maria Coady, Anita Coady, Deidre Gillis, and Wayne Robicheau.*

### ***Adult Education / Workplace Initiatives Course***

- Since the Fall of 2017, MADA has been involved with the delivery of courses through Workplace Initiatives, Dept. of Labour and Advanced Education to assist individuals and businesses locally . A positive for workers in northern Inverness County to access skills in this area and an opportunity for MADA to assist as the administrator of the grant.*
- We have done three courses and are now hosting our fourth. All are free to residents.*
- MADA hosted a Computer Skills for theWorkplace (40 hour) course between January and late February 2019 with 11 students. Presently we are hosting a 5 week course on Marketing for Small and Medium-Sized Business which began at the end of October with 10 students. Our current class is being held here at Margaree Meeting Place on Wednesdays. Very positive feedback from the students who have attended the courses.*
- A course on Basic Bookkeeping is slated for late March 2020. Watch for information and pass on this notice to others who might qualify.*

### ***Margaree Summer Treasures 2019 - Raffle***

- MADA organized a raffle between July 1<sup>st</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> to raise funds to put toward a small shed for our grounds equipment.*
- Businesses and organizations throughout the Margarees assisted in partnering on a wonderful collection of products, crafts and gift cards for our collection of treasures. A sincere thank you for the support we received.*
- Tickets were largely sold at the library, through the Board and at various events in the area.*
- Tickets sold well with \$826. raised. Winner was Marguerite LeBlanc, East Margaree.*

*Respectfully submitted,  
Eileen Coady*

Laurie was asked to say a few words on the Internet and Cell Service 'problems' in our area and asked for time to share some other initiatives he and the county had taken on, detailing monies granted to other groups and area associations. Cell service continues to be an issue and he is striking a committee to do some work on this, wondering if Maria or someone from MADA would be part of it.

Several questions were asked and answered. Once again, there was general agreement that the county seemed to be taking on some initiatives, although Cell service continued to be a source of real frustration.



**Margaree Cooks Ovens:** Oisín commented that he felt the summer had been good and the training sessions were well attended, however, weather, of late, had been problematic.

**Nominating Committee:** consisted of Anita, Maria and Bruce. Anita made the motion that Lee Fraser, who had been appointed earlier, replacing Sharon Burchell, be elected along with Kay Robertson. Asking three times for further nominations, there being none, these members were acclaimed.

In a brief Q & A, Sharon asked about accessing minutes now that she isn't on the board. John said they could be posted to her, (or she could be given access to them on Google Drive). It was suggested we discuss putting them on website and this will be on agenda when first the new BOD meets. .

At 9:30 PM, Eddie, having noticed the treats at back of room, called for adjournment. meeting adjourned.

#### **MADA INCOME 2109 (Nov 2018-Oct 2019)**

<b>12950.00</b>	<b>Deposited for VIC and transferred to VIC</b>
<b>12000.00</b>	<b>Inverness County</b>
<b>7117.00</b>	<b>PNS.. Continuing education</b>
<b>4840.00</b>	<b>Final payment of PNS reno grant</b>
<b>4400.00</b>	<b>Inverness County for basement project</b>
<b>3611.00</b>	<b>Student Grant</b>
<b>3120.00</b>	<b>Canada Day Concert</b>
<b>2000.00</b>	<b>Rent from Visitor info Centre for 2019 and 2020</b>
<b>2000.00</b>	<b>Transfer from market watch savings</b>
<b>1755.10</b>	<b>Celtic Colors 2018</b>
<b>1457.58</b>	<b>Canada Day donations</b>
<b>1415.08</b>	<b>Calendar ad income</b>
<b>1350.00</b>	<b>DCBA festival grant</b>
<b>1161.62</b>	<b>Craft sale day including ticket sales on Rob Romard</b>
<b>print</b>	
<b>1050</b>	<b>DCBA Festivals Grant 2018 final payment</b>
<b>1000.00</b>	<b>Deposits and transfer to Family Campout (From County</b>
<b>and Live L in T)</b>	
<b>826.00</b>	<b>Summer Treasures ticket sales</b>
<b>875.00</b>	<b>Trails grant</b>
<b>825.00</b>	<b>Winter Wellness Grant</b>
<b>700.00</b>	<b>Donations for Ad Hoc -Credit Union Closure -Inv</b>
<b>County, Kinsmen, Co op</b>	
<b>500.00</b>	<b>CC ticket sales, meal supplement, donation</b>
<b>530.00</b>	<b>Sale of old windows and doors</b>
<b>520.00</b>	<b>Calendar sales</b>
<b>435.99</b>	<b>Communities in Bloom</b>
<b>310.88</b>	<b>Communities in Bloom 2018</b>
<b>275.00</b>	<b>Donations from food truck and food hub.</b>
<b>217.35</b>	<b>Recycling</b>
<b>100.00</b>	<b>Meeting Place Rental</b>

72.25	Yard Sale Profit
<u>49.00</u>	Story Telling CC
67463.85	

### **MADA 2019 EXPENSES (NOV 2018-OCT 2019)**

45432.30	Major reno, flood control, French drain, gutters, air exchange & basement project, emergency lights
12950.00	Deposits for Visitor Info Centre
5891.00	Instructor fee for continuing education classes
4000.00	Transfer to market watch savings
4800.00	Cleaning services
3583.70	Student salary and remittance
1927.00	insurance and director's insurance
1731.25	Repairs – lawn mower, broken pipe, windows in library & VIC, New UV light, new sump pump, extra basement cleaning
1570.95	NS Power
1518.00	Snow removal
1084.88	Canada Day-Oran ads, cupcakes, expenses
1000.00	Family campout
977.00	Celtic Colours -meals, tickets sales back to CC
962.81	Purchases -blinds, new sign, civic #, tent, plyths
825.00	Winter Wellness
800.00	Trails
757.06	Credit Union closure -Ad Hoc committee
538.37	Cleaning supplies
519.35	Joint stocks, gaming, oran, waterline, gasoline, checks,
504.40	Communities in Bloom
423.92	CBU Project
225.00	Calendar winners 2018
160.88	CI Bloom 2018
155.00	Gift cards for clean up crew after the hurricane, card as a thank-you for several projects, student 2018
65.00	Christmas tree & wreaths for 2018
<u>50.00</u>	Donation to CBA Grad
92452.87	